GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4763
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
DEATHS O INFANTS
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 20 babies die every minute according to the annual report of WHO as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated April 7,2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the position of India in this regard as per WHO ;

(d) the reasons for the death of the infants as given by the WHO;

(e) the details of death toll in this regard; and

(f) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such deaths among infants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) According to the publication `World Health Report, 2005` and `Facts And Figures from World Health Report- 2005` both published by World Health Organization around 10.6 million children die globally before reaching the age of 5 years. Of these, 4.0 million die within 28 days of birth.

WHO, in the report under reference, have also indicated the neo natal mortality rate i.e. deaths of babies under 28 days, for India as 43 per 100 live births for the year 2000. This is in keeping with the estimates of the Registrar General of India for the same year which was 44 per 1000 live births. Based on this data, it is estimated that about 1.1 million babies in India die before the age of 28 days.

According to WHO, the major causes of deaths among children under 5 years of age are acute respiratory infections (19%), diarrhea (18%), malaria(8%), measles(4%), HIV/AIDS(3%) and neo-natal conditions mainly pre-term birth asphyxia and infections(37%).

(f) The child health is an integral part of the on-going Reproductive and Child Health programme of Government of India which is being implemented in all states since 1977. Under this programme, the major interventions focused on reducing deaths among infants and children are immunization against vaccine preventable diseses i.e. tuberculosis, diptheria. Pertussis, tetanus, measles and polio, with Hepatiits B being taken up as a pilot project, control of deaths due to diarrhea, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections, prophylaxis against vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anemia, essential new born care, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. Integrated Management of neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) is recognised as a technically superior package and will be implemented in the country in a phased manner in the second phase of RCH II, which has stated in April, 2005.

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